

FACT SHEET

ZERO TOLERANCE: GBV-FREE SCHOOLS IN NEPAL

BACKGROUND

Schools do not exist in social isolation from their communities. Gender inequalities, violence in the home, and social norms are often reflected in gender-based, violence-related incidents at school. The *Zero Tolerance* initiative intends to counter harmful social norms and practices, and promote non-violent behaviors in schools. According to a survey conducted by UNICEF in 2014, 66% of school-going children in Nepal have experienced physical violence in any form, while 22% have experienced psychological violence by teachers. Similarly, the percentage of children experiencing physical and psychological violence by peers at school is 28% and 15%, respectively. The same survey also found that 12% of children have been victims of sexual violence at school. Education has the potential to transform and empower young people, particularly girls. In 2015, the Government of Nepal launched the academic year with the slogan “End Gender-Based Violence at School,” and has been raising awareness and taking active steps to address this issue. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, USAID and UNICEF are partnering to support the government in these efforts over a three-year period.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The *Zero Tolerance* project is a three-year, over \$5 million collaborative effort between USAID and UNICEF aimed at reducing the prevalence of school-related gender-based violence and establishing child- and adolescent-friendly procedures to respond to incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) when they occur. The project leverages UNICEF's ongoing work by establishing or strengthening connections between education and child protection actors. Through training, mapping of services for GBV victims, advocacy and awareness raising activities, school actors will gain knowledge of child rights as well as understand the impact of GBV – including segregation during menstruation (or *chhaupadi*) and child marriage – and their legal and social consequences. Girls who are married early face dismal socio-economic and physical consequences, such as loss of schooling, psychological trauma, poverty, and lower reproductive health outcomes. To complement preventive activities, the project will also develop a systematic reporting and referral mechanism to monitor and respond to incidents of school-related GBV. Such activities will ensure that school students who are victims or at risk of violence are appropriately supported and have access to child- and adolescent-friendly services. The project seeks to create learning environments that are GBV-free, where girls and boys are empowered to protect themselves and counter harmful social norms and practices in their communities.

SNAPSHOT

Life of Project: January 2016 – January 2019

Goal: Targeted schools are safe spaces, free of all forms of gender-based violence, where girls and boys are able to equitably learn and become empowered to protect themselves and counter harmful social norms and practices.

Strategic Partners: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Department of Education, Department of Women and Children, Women and Children Offices, District Education Offices, Central Child Welfare Board

Geographic Focus: Four Central Terai districts Parsa, Dhanusa, Rautahat and Mahottari

Total Project Amount: \$5,025,500

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Schools, communities, boys, and girls promote nonviolent behaviors and zero tolerance of GBV in schools

- Train teachers, School Management Committee members, parent-teacher association (PTA) members, and Young Champions on GBV prevention
- Conduct advocacy and awareness raising in schools and communities

Students, teachers, and school staff confidently report cases of violence

- Design and pilot a school-based reporting and referral mechanism
- Create and strengthen linkages between schools, service providers, and community-based mechanisms

Boys and girls who are victims or at risk of violence in the school and in the community have access to child- and adolescent-friendly services

- Strengthen school and justice sector capacity to provide child- and adolescent-friendly gender-sensitive services
- Provide effective case management, outreach, and follow-up services as well as extend support to families of GBV survivors

PLANNED RESULTS

- Students in targeted schools state they feel safe in their schools and their community
- Target population views GBV as less acceptable after participating in or being exposed to project interventions
- Target population reports increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political opportunities
- Teachers, School Management Committees, and PTA members in targeted schools and communities have comprehensive knowledge on GBV (impact, legal aspects, case management guidelines, and referral mechanisms)
- GBV cases (including school-related GBV, *chhaupadi*, and child marriage) are reported by targeted schools to relevant authorities
- Students and families view key service providers as child and/or adolescent friendly
- Students access child- and/or adolescent-friendly services

PROJECT TARGET

- 200 schools across the four districts, reaching approximately 100,000 learners, 2,000 teachers and 5,000 School Management Committee and PTA community members
- Approximately 1,000 children reached through family support & other services

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